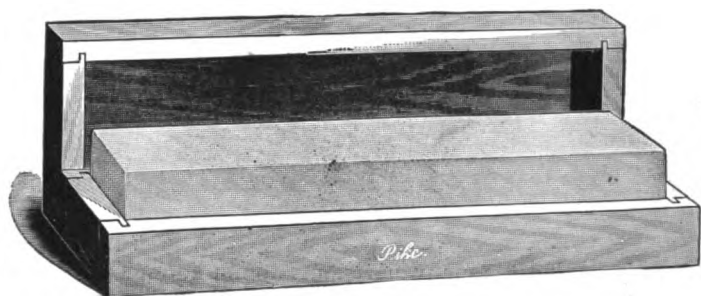


# A DULL TOOL IS USELESS!

A Poor Whetstone  
may make it worse, may ruin it!

MORAL—Use care in selecting and recommending Whetstones.



## PIKE'S LILY WHITE WASHITA OILSTONE

Is the choice of the best mechanics the world over for carpenters' and similar tools. It has no rival. Made in bench stones, in round edge beveled slips, and mounted in polished wood boxes. Every stone warranted.

## PIKE'S Genuine Arkansas Oilstone

Cannot be equaled for tools requiring a very fine edge, such as used by Engravers, Jewelers, Machinists, Cutlers, Etc.

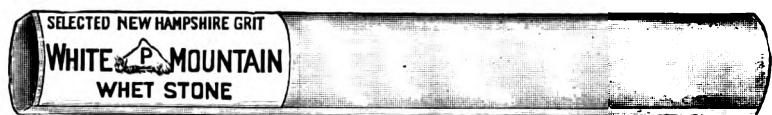


## PIKE'S Imported Belgian Razor Hones and German Water Hones

Are from the best quarries in Europe. The most uniform in quality.



## PIKE'S Black Diamond, White Mountain Indian Pond



## SCYTHESTONES

Are the World's Scythe Sharpeners.  
Won't Glaze—Don't Break—Do Sell.



**Pike's Natural Grit Carving Knife Hone,**  
A boon to all wielders of the carving knife

**Pike's Quick Edge Pocket Knife Hone,**  
A great little sharpener for pocket knives,  
ink erasers, scissors etc



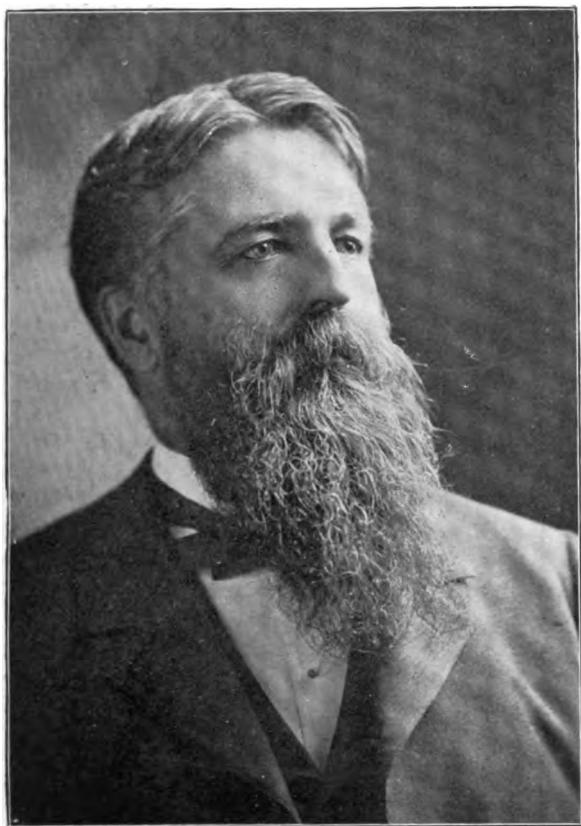
Send for 64 page Illustrated Catalogue and Desk-stone Paperweight Free

**THE PIKE MFG. CO., Pike Station, N. H.**

151 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK.

## THE MANUFACTURE OF WHETSTONES

The word "Whetstone" is applied in its broadest sense to any stone used for abrading or sharpening purposes. It occurs once, at least, in the Bible, and quite frequently in ancient histories. Among the discoveries of crude tools and implements used by pre-historic races, even back to the Cave men, have been occasional pieces of stone that



E. B. PIKE, PREST. PIKE MFG. CO.

evidently were used for sharpening implements of metal, bone and stone.

The vast increase in the variety of edge tools, both for hand and machine use, attendant upon the wonderful industrial progress of the last century, has made necessary the production of sharpening stones in many shapes and sizes, and of many varieties of texture or "grit."

In Europe quite largely, and to a limited extent in this country, the manufacture of artificial stones from crushed emery, quartz sand and siliceous deposits has been carried on for some time; but although stones of some abrasive properties can be produced in this manner at less cost than those manufactured from the natural rock, they never have been, and never can be, as satisfactory or efficient as natural stones of suitable grit. The reason for this is readily apparent when it is understood that the sharpening qualities of a whetstone are due entirely to the sharp points or "facets" of its crystals, and the openness and uniformity of the minute pores between these crystals. In the artificial stone, which is made from a powdered material, moulded and shaped by great pressure, these crystal points are broken, and the pores filled up with glue or other "binding" material, so that after little usage the so-called stone becomes glazed and is practically useless.

In the early days of the present century (about 1815) the first American-made whetstones were quarried in the town of Cummington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, famous as the birth-place of one of America's greatest poets.

These stones were used for "whetting" scythes, and

were taken from a vein, or lead, of mica-schistose sand stone, which can be traced in a south-westerly direction from northern Vermont to the southern part of Connecticut. A few years later an outcropping of this same lead was discovered in Grafton County, New Hampshire. The quality of the stone at this point was even better for scythe stones than that in Massachusetts, being a little sharper in grit, and freer from flint, iron and other foreign substance. The first quarry opened was located on the shore of a small lake known as "Indian Pond," and when Isaac Pike began manufacturing this rock into scythestones in 1823, he called them Indian Pond scythe stones. A little later he painted the ends of his stone red to distinguish them from imitations (labels being unknown in those days), and from that day to this the stones from this famous quarry, or rather chain of quarries, have been known as Pike's Indian Pond Red Ends.

In this manner was founded the business of the Pike Mfg. Co., of Pike Station, N. H., and New York City, recognized to-day as the largest manufacturer in the world of sharpening stones exclusively.

The direct successor to Isaac Pike, upon his death in 1860, was his second son, Alonzo F. Pike, who was joined in later years by the youngest son, Edwin B. Pike, president of the present company. In 1882, Alonzo F. Pike was succeeded by the A. F. Pike Mfg. Co., with A. F. Pike, president; E. B. Pike, vice president, and Isaac Pike, Jr., treasurer. This company, in turn, was succeeded in 1889 by the Pike Mfg. Co., the present officers of which are: E. B. Pike, president; James Nicholl, vice president, and E. Bertram Pike, treasurer, the latter representing the third generation of the family in this business.

The Pike Mfg. Co. are operating quarries and factories in various parts of the United States, the principal ones be-



E. BERTRAM PIKE, TREASURER.

ing in Orleans County, Vermont, where the celebrated Black Diamond, Lamoille and Green Mountain scythestones are turned out; Pike Station, Grafton County, New Hampshire, the home of the widely-known Indian Pond and White Mountain scythestones, and Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, where, in the spurs of the Ozark

Mountains, a deposit of Novaculite is found from which are made the two chief oilstones of the world, the Washita and the Arkansas. This oilstone rock is shipped mostly in the rough to a factory operated by the Pike Mfg. Co., at Manlius, Onondaga County, New York, this being a central point for distribution of the finished goods. Two years ago the company built an oilstone factory in the city of Hot Springs, and eventually, when railroad facilities are greater, will doubtless manufacture a larger portion of the output at that point.

The Washita and Arkansas stones were first put on the market some 55 years ago. The Arkansas and Washita stones are similar in composition, both being about 99 per cent. pure silica, but the Arkansas is many times harder, its crystals much smaller, and the edge it imparts much finer. It is nearly 18 times as hard as marble, and will cut the very hardest steel. The Washita stone is much softer and coarser, and is adapted best to sharpening wood working tools, such as are used by carpenters and joiners. It has entirely supplanted the Turkey stone in America, and is fast taking its place in Europe and other countries.

Although there are numerous outcroppings, or indications, of this Novaculite lead in the Ozark Mountains, yet there have been very few actual quarries or deposits of good rock discovered in the last 30 years.

It is the general impression among those without practical experience in the business that to manufacture Washita and Arkansas oilstones it is only necessary to procure rock anywhere on these leads similar in appearance to the genuine oilstone rock, and finish it up into the desired shapes. This has been attempted by many different parties during the past thirty years, and though resulting invariably in failure, sooner or later, yet it has done considerable injury to the reputation of these unrivalled oilstones. Only men of long experience in the quarrying are qualified to select the rock, and only the manufacturer who has made careful study of the requirements of the edge tool trade can determine the grade or quality best suited to various purposes. The Pike Co. first took up the manufacture of these oilstones in 1882, and after a few years of rather expensive experience in learning the truth of the above statements, became convinced that to make a success of this branch of the business they must have the product of the best quarries, and only the men most skilled in handling and selecting the finished stone. It took much time and expense to accomplish this, but, to persevere is to achieve success, and for some years now their selected brands of Arkansas and Washita have been recognized the world over as the standard oilstones for their respective purposes.

In Orleans, Orange County, Indiana, the Pike Mfg. Co. have a warehouse for the handling of the fine grained Sandstone, quarried in the surrounding district. This stone is of two grades, commercially known as Hindostan and Shoemakers' Sandstone. The Hindostan is the finer, and adapted for putting a quick edge on wood workers' tools. It can be used with oil or water, owing to its free, soft grit.

In addition to the mills, warehouses and quarries at different points, the Pike Mfg. Co. have a store at No. 151 Chambers Street, New York, where they carry a large stock of all the goods manufactured by them, for the convenience of local and export trade. They also carry at this store the largest line in America of imported Razor Hones and Emery Stones. The principal razor hones are imported direct by them from the leading quarries in Belgium.